

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06
COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SIL-01
LAB-04 L-03 SP-02 OIC-02 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-10
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R 071520Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1096
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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VIENNA FOR UNIDO

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, UN, AORG
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP ROME

SUMMARY: ROME GENEVA GROUP (GGR) MET MARCH 3. MEETING
HEARD BAKER REPORT ON GENEVA GROUP EXPERTS, RECEIVED
REPORT ON ICP'S BID FOR STATUS IN NEW YORK AND SAOUMA'S
LETTER TERMINATING ITS LINK TO FAO, AGREED ON REPORT
FOR MARCH 1, 1977-MARCH 1, 1978 TO GENEVA GROUP CON-
SULTATIVE LEVEL, AND DISCUSSED INITIATION OF DIALOGUE
WITH FAO DG. END SUMMARY

1. BAKER REPORTED ON GENEVA BUDGET EXPERTS MEETING
ON BASIS OF THEIR DRAFT REPORT AS FINAL DOCUMENT NOT
YET RECEIVED FROM GENEVA. RELEVANT POSITIONS OF JIU REPORT
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OF SOHM AND DRAFT REPORT OF BERTREND ON EVALUATION
AND ACC PAPER ENDORSING SOHM REPORT WERE PROVIDED
TO GGR. BAKER NOTED THAT DURING HIS FEB. 22 LUNCH
WITH WEST, LATTER HAD STATED HE WAS ABOUT TO
INTRODUCE, DESPITE INTERNAL FAO GRUMBLING ABOUT HIS
"POWER GRAB", A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL
EVALUATION. (BAKER DID NOT, HOWEVER, ADD THAT HE

HAD ARRANGED IN GENEVA FOR JERRY SCHWAB, WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED AN AID-BASED DESIGN FOR AN INTERNAL ILO EVALUATION SYSTEM, TO SEND A COPY TO WEST "FOR COMMENT").

2. GGR APPEARED SUPPORTIVE OF IDEA OF PRAISING AND ENCOURAGING DG FOR INSTITUTING COMPREHENSIVE SELF-EVALUATION SYSTEM THROUGHOUT FAO AND PLACING IN-DEPTH EVALUATION UNIT WHERE IT COULD BE USED FOR SELECTIVE STUDIES IN ENTIRE ORGANIZATION, NOT JUST FIELD PROJECTS. GGR AGREED THAT IF INTERNAL EVALUATION SYSTEM WERE TO BE USEFUL, THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE CANDOR AND THAT DG WOULD, THEREFORE, BE RELUCTANT TO SHARE ALL OUTPUT. HOWEVER, WE WERE JUSTIFIED, THROUGH OUR MEMBERS OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE (PC) AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (FC) IN STIMULATING AND BENEFITTING FROM EVALUATION PROCESS BY ASKING QUESTIONS RELEVANT TO PROGRAMS ON PC AND FC AGENDA UTILIZING TYPE OF QUESTIONS OUTLINED BY GENEVA BUDGET EXPERTS. ALL AGREED THAT FACT THAT PC AND FC MEMBERS WERE NOW REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATES STRENGTHENED OUR CASE TO DO THIS.

3. HIGGINSON DESCRIBED SEQUENCE OF ACTION ON ICP IN WHICH: (1) BISHOP UNABLE TO GET APPOINTMENTS WITH SAOUMA IN MID-FEBRUARY; (2) DG PREPARED DRAFT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LETTER TERMINATING ALL FAO-ICP RELATIONSHIP BUT DID NOT SEND IT OR SEND AN FAO REP TO ICP LONDON MEETING; (3) ICP AT LONDON MEETING AGREED ON LETTER TO WALDHEIM SEEKING ASSOCIATION WITH UN SYSTEM (ED. PERHAPS VIA OTC) IN NEW YORK AND SENT COPY TO DG; (4) DG SENT HIS LETTER. HIGGINSON ALSO PROVIDED POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF DG'S DECISION. GGR MEMBERS AGREED, GIVEN ORIGINS OF ICP-FAO RELATIONSHIP, THAT DG TECHNICALLY WITHIN HIS RIGHTS BUT HAD CHARACTERISTICALLY HANDLED MATTER IN WAY WHICH HAD UNNECESSARILY ANTAGONIZED ICP AND MEMBER INDUSTRIES. GGR MEMBERS NODDED AGREEMENT TO SUGGESTION THAT THEY MIGHT: (1) RECOMMEND THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER SUPPORTING WITH WALDHEIM AN APPROPRIATE NY ROLE FOR ICP SINCE THERE SEEMD NO POSSIBILITY NOW OF AN ARRANGEMENT BEING WORKED OUT WITH FAO; (2) EXPRESS REGRET, WHEN DG REPORTS TO PC UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4 IN MAY, THAT FAO CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION THAT

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THE DG EXAMINE THE INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, FURTHER TO THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAM CMTE, AND TO PROPOSE TO THE SPRING SESSION OF THE PROGRAM CMTE AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE COUNCIL WAYS OF SECURING APPROPRIATE COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE FUTURE NOT IMPLEMENT; (3) TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION UNLESS GOVERNMENTS, AFTER APPROACHES BY ICP MEMBERS, SO INSTRUCT.

4. CO-CHAIRMEN PRESENTED THEIR DRAFT GGR REPORT TO GENEVA CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND IT WAS ADOPTED WITH MINOR EDITING (COPIES BEING POUCHED TO WASHINGTON AND GENEVA).

5. GGR AGREED TO HAVE CO-CHAIRMEN SEEK CALL ON DG WEEK OF MARCH 20. CO-CHAIRMEN TOGETHER WITH SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO PRODUCE DRAFT TALKING POINTS
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TO REVIEW WITH FULL COMMITTEE ON MARCH 20. FOLLOWING IS GENERAL OUTLINE OFFERED BY BAKER IN SUMMING UP DISCUSSION RECEIVED FAVORABLE REACTION:

INITIATION OF DIALOGUE

--WE COMPLIMENT DG ON MOVES TOWARD MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT; BETTER EVALUATION ACROSS BOARD; MORE SYSTEMATIC IN-DEPTH EVALUATION BY EVALUATION UNIT.

--THIS APPEARS RESPONSIVE TO HIU AND ACC DIRECTIONS.

--WE HOPE TO SEE FIRST RESULTS IN MANNER IN WHICH PROGRAMS 2.1.1-2.1.5 PRESENTED UNDER ITEM 6 OF MAY PC.

--WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN BE AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR DISCOVERING EFFICIENCY OF PROGRAMS AND LOCATING SOURCES OF SAVINGS.

--WE FEEL IN PARTICULAR THAT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SEE WHERE REGULAR BUDGET SAVINGS CAN BE MADE THRU USE OF EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS. WE HOPE THIS WILL BE APPLIED TO EXAMINATION OF THESE PROGRAMS.

--WE WOULD HOPE THAT MATERIALS PREPARED FOR PC REVIEW WILL ANSWER CERTAIN QUESTIONS THAT WE AS MEMBER STATES BELIEVE RELEVANT TO MAKING A USEFUL EVALUATION IN THE PC PROCESS.

--OUR WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR SAVINGS IS RELATED TO OUR STATEMENT OF FAO CONFERENCE ON FAO 1978-79 BUDGET. AS WE LOOK TOWARD 1980-81 BUDGET, KNOWING THAT CERTAIN PROGRAMS WILL PROPERLY RECEIVE HIGHER PRIORITY, WE NEED TO LOOK FOR THOSE WHICH MAY BE: (1) TERMINATED; (2) REDUCED; (3) FUNDED TO A GREATER EXTENT THRU EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES.

--SINCE WE MAY BE RECOMMENDING LATER THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YEAR AN INDICATIVE PERCENTAGE OF REAL COST GROWTH REPRESENTING THE MAXIMUM THEIR MAIN CONTRIBUTORS CAN SUPPORT FOR 1980-81, WE WANT TO SEEK WAYS TO HELP FAO'S IMPORTANT WORK CAN MOVE AHEAD WITHIN THESE REGULAR BUDGET LIMITS.

--IN ADDITION TO SEEKING WAYS TO BETTER EVALUATE PROGRAMS ON THE PC AGENDA, WE ARE EXAMINING CERTAIN PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT IN GROWTH FACTORS FOR THE 1980-81 BUDGET AND MAY WISH TO EXAMINE THESE AS WELL IN THE PC AND FC OR DIRECTLY WITH DG.

--WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO GAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF FAO BUDGET BUILDING METHODOLOGY AND EXCHANGE VIEWS REGULARLY WITH THE DG OR HIS DESIGNATED ASSISTANTS WITH A VIEW TO A BETTER GRASP OF THE MATTER AS WE ARE DOING WITH OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

6. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS DEPART-

MENT OR INFO POSTS MIGHT WISH TO OFFER ON THIS OPENING
LINE WHICH WE PLAN IN WEEK OF MARCH 13 TO USE IN
DISCUSSION WITH UK, DUTCH AND CANADIAN DELS PRIOR
TO MARCH 20 GGR MEETING. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME04222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780102-1210
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780397/aaaademo.tel
Line Count: 228
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3416562
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP ROME SUMMARY: ROME GENEVA GROUP (GGR) MET MARCH 3. MEETING HEARD BAKER REPORT ON GENEVA GROUP EXPERTS, RECEI
TAGS: AORG, FAO, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9bc332cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014